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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, August 14, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended August 9 totaled an estimated 17.5 billion ton-miles, 0.5 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 32 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 562 billion ton-miles, 2.2 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended August 9 totaled 428,125 cars, 7.8 percent below 1979, and 0.3 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 14.8 percent in the East, 3.4 percent in the South, and 5.4 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 18 of the 21 commodity groups were down, although coal loadings were up 11,431 cars, or 10.8 percent, and grain showed an increase of 5,527 cars, or 19.3 percent. Twelve of the 21 groups were down from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended August 2 totaled 30,514 cars, down 15.3 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 55,555 trailers and/or containers, 12.4 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 31 weeks of the year was 993,386 cars, 10.4 percent lower than last year, and 1,809,538 trailers and/or containers, down 7.6 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 8/9/80.

	Loadings in Week ended August 9, 1980	Change from Corresponding Week 1979			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent	Cars	Percent
Grain	34,165	I	5,527	19.3	D 1,046	3.0
Other farm products	4,033	I	1,090	37.0	D 191	4.5
Metallic ores	28,306	D	12,420	30.5	I 319	1.1
Coal	117,227	I	11,431	10.8	I 4,320	3.8
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	14,686	D	4,358	22.9	D 350	2.3
Nonmetallic minerals	15,589	D	1,007	6.1	I 680	4.6
Grain mill products	16,576	D	1,047	5.9	I 102	0.6
Food and kindred products	17,796	D	131	0.7	D 427	2.3
Primary forest products	19,817	D	1,194	5.7	D 621	3.0
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,820	D	3,230	26.8	D 555	5.9
Pulp, paper and allied products	19,639	D	1,446	6.9	D 976	4.7
Chemicals and allied products	25,091	D	1,983	7.3	I 450	1.8
Petroleum products	5,269	D	1,021	16.2	I 51	1.0
Stone, clay and glass products	15,508	D	3,707	19.3	I 199	1.3
Coke	3,754	D	3,157	45.7	D 264	6.6
Metals and products	12,093	D	5,435	31.0	D 2,640	17.9
Motor vehicles and equipment	10,236	D	2,820	21.6	I 62	0.6
Waste and scrap materials	9,975	D	3,703	27.1	D 38	0.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,256	D	2,000	16.3	D 221	2.1
All other carloads	39,082	D	5,217	11.8	D 162	0.4
LCL traffic	207	D	211	50.5	I 7	3.5
Total Cars Loaded	428,125	D	36,039	7.8	D 1,301	0.3
Corresponding week of 1979	464,164					

	1980	1979	%	Change
Total Cars Loaded (32 weeks)	13,886,609	14,576,542	D	4.7
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
31 weeks cumulative	544.8	532.6	I	2.3
Week ended August 9	17.5	17.6	D	0.5
32 weeks cumulative	562.3	550.2	I	2.2

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